

2012 CIVIL SERVICE AWARDS—Moldova

Deadline: December 2, 2011

INTRODUCTION

In cooperation with the Office of the Prime Minister of Moldova and the Educational Advising Center, the Scholarship Programs of the Open Society Foundations announce the 2012 Civil Service Awards—Moldova.

These awards will support graduate study in the United States and Canada leading to Master's degrees in public policy-oriented academic fields.

The awards are open to public sector employees and are intended to benefit the following federal entities and their associated agencies in Moldova:

Ministry of Education; Ministry of Labor, Social Protection, and Family; Ministry of the Economy; Ministry of Transportation; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration; and The State Chancellery and other corresponding Ministries (according to the below fields of study list).

Upon completing the degrees, grantees must return to employment at a position determined by the home government for a commitment of three years.

BACKGROUND

A modern, professional and transparent public administration is essential for furthering reform and development agendas in transitioning countries of Eastern Europe. This program is designed to meet the long-term professional development needs of mid- to top-level staff of Moldovan governmental ministries and agencies. The fellowship targets career civil servants who demonstrate both academic and professional excellence and the potential to become leaders, decision-makers, and agents of change.

FIELDS OF STUDY

Education	Public Administration/Management
Social Policy	Public Policy
Environmental Management/Policy	Development Economics
Agricultural Management/Policy	Public Health

ELIGIBILITY

The Program does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or disability. The competition is merit-based and open* to those meeting the following criteria:

- legal resident of Moldova at the time of application;
- work experience in the public sector for at least 18 months prior to application;
- excellent academic record with advanced degree (minimum: Bachelor's degree);
- demonstrated leadership potential;
- proficient in spoken and written English or French;
- able to participate in an intensive academic writing program in July 2012;
- able to begin the graduate program in August or September 2012;
- able to receive and maintain a U.S. visa or Canadian study permit;
- clear commitment to return to Moldova to aid ongoing public sector reform;
- willingness to accept or continue employment at a position designated by the home government for a period of up to three years, after completing the degree.

*Employees of the Open Society Foundations, the Education Advising Center, and the Moldovan government (and their immediate family members) who are directly involved in the administration of scholarships are not eligible; nor are individuals receiving other Open Society Foundations--funded support during the fellowship period.

FELLOWSHIP TERMS

The fellowship provides:

- tuition and mandatory university fees;
- monthly stipend for room, board, and other living expenses;
- program-related travel;
- accident and sickness insurance during the program;
- funds for educational materials and professional development;
- all costs associated with pre-academic summer program and annual conference.

The fellowship does NOT provide funding for dependent family members.

SELECTION

Competition is merit based, and selection is made on the basis of academic excellence, professional aptitude, leadership potential in the field of specialization, and proven commitment to support ongoing reform efforts at the home ministry or agency. Selection proceeds as follows:

All applicants are required to take the ITP (unofficial) TOEFL immediately after the application deadline on a date to be determined. Costs of the exam are covered by the program.

Preliminary selection and Testing: Applications first are reviewed by representatives from the home ministry, the Center for International Education (CIE), and Open Society Scholarship Programs. Applicants chosen to continue in the competition as semifinalists may be required to take the official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and Graduate Record Exam (GRE), the costs of which are covered by the program.

Interviews and Final Selection: Semifinalists are interviewed by a committee of representatives from the home government, Scholarship Programs, and North American universities. The interviewing panel then recommends candidates for placement based on the quality of the written application, interview evaluations, and standardized test results.

UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT

Fellows are matched with universities according to their chosen field of study, academic record, and professional aptitude. All decisions concerning host university placement are made by the program selection committee, which includes university admissions staff and faculty. Finalists may not choose their host university.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Pre-Academic Summer Program: Grantees are required to participate in a four-week summer intensive pre-program in Istanbul, Turkey before starting study at host universities in the fall. The program consists of classes in academic writing, as well as social science and humanities-based seminars.

Fellowship: Immediately after the summer program, finalists must attend a pre-departure orientation (held in Istanbul). During the second semester of studies, finalists must participate in an annual program workshop. Fellows must uphold the academic standards of the host institution and undertake full-time study for the duration of the program. Fellows will not be permitted to change their assigned host university or field of study. Failure to maintain academic and professional standards as defined by the host university may result in dismissal from the program. Failure to follow the laws governing foreign students in the host country will result in dismissal from the program.

Post-Fellowship: Grantees must sign a legally-binding contract with their home government, agreeing to a term of employment in a position designated by the government upon completion of the program.

APPLICATION

To request an application or more information contact:

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